

8. (Amended) An optical fiber according to claim 5, wherein the ratio of the optical power which propagates through said sub mediums of said outer cladding region to the total optical power propagating through said optical fiber is set to not more than 1%.

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9. (Amended) An optical fiber according to claim 3, wherein said optical fiber is operated in a single mode at a given wavelength between 1510nm to 1590nm.

10. (amended) An optical fiber according to claim 3, wherein the chromatic dispersion at a given wavelength between 1510nm and 1590 nm is set to a value below - 80 ps/nm/km.

APPENDIX

Excerpts from Photonic Crystals pp. 32-33

WO 00/49436 Improvements In or Relating to Photonic Crystal Fibres